

Applicant: Trinh et al.
Serial No.: 10/632,415
Group Art Unit: 2873

PATENT
Docket No.: 10-9404

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 9 and 14 as set forth below.

Please add claims 18-21 as set forth below.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of dip coating optical elements comprising: dipping an optical element into a coating solution bath; withdrawing the optical element from the coating solution bath; and creating a meniscus between the optical element and the coating solution bath when the optical element is otherwise located above said coating solution bath so as to allow capillary forces to wick off a desired amount of the coating solution from the optical lens element.
2. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 wherein the meniscus is created when the distance between the coating solution bath and the optical element is approximately 2 millimeters.
3. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 wherein the viscosity of the coating solution is between 1 cPs and 20 cPs.
4. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 wherein the temperature of the coating solution is between 30° Fahrenheit and 90° Fahrenheit.
5. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 wherein the step of withdrawing the optical element from the coating solution proceeds at a speed between approximately 1.5 and 3 inches per second.
6. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 further comprising maintaining the meniscus for between 10 seconds and 1 minute.

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7. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 further comprising curing the coating solution.
8. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 further comprising washing the optical element prior to dipping.
9. (Currently amended) A method of coating an eye element comprising: introducing the eye element into a coating solution; initiating a separation of the eye element from the coating solution; maintaining a touching of a bottom portion of the eye element with the coating solution for a predetermined period of time sufficient to effect a wicking of excess solution from the element; and terminating the touching after the predetermined period.
10. (Original) The method of coating an eye lens of claim 9 wherein the touching of a bottom portion of the eye element with the coating solution creates a meniscus.
11. (Original) The method of coating an eye lens of claim 9 wherein the viscosity of the coating solution is between 1 cPs and 20 cPs.
12. (Original) The method of coating an eye lens of claim 9 further comprising maintaining the meniscus for between 10 seconds and 1 minute.
13. (Original) The method of coating an eye lens of claim 9 further comprising curing the coating solution.
14. (Currently Amended) An eye lens comprising: a lens substrate; and a coating on the lens substrate, the coating having been applied with a dip coating method; and the lens substrate with the coating being free of a visually observable light wedge due to said coating solution being wicked from an edge of said lens substrate through a meniscus created between said coating solution and said edge of said lens substrate at the conclusion of said dip coating method.
15. (Original) The eye lens of claim 14 wherein the dip coating method comprises:

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dipping an optical element into a coating;

withdrawing the optical element from the coating solution; and

creating a meniscus between the optical element and the coating solution so as to allow capillary forces to wick off a desired amount of the coating solution from the optical lens.

16. (Original) An eye lens comprising: a lens substrate; and a coating on the substrate, the coating having been applied by dip coating; and, the lens substrate with the coating having a visible light transmission differential from a top to a bottom of the lens substrate of approximately 1.5%.

17. (Original) The eye lens of claim 16 wherein the dip coating method comprises: dipping an optical element into a coating; withdrawing the optical element from the coating solution; and creating a meniscus between the optical element and the coating solution so as to allow capillary forces to wick off a desired amount of the coating solution from the optical lens.

18. (New) A method of dip coating optical elements comprising:

dipping an optical element into a coating solution bath so that the entire element is below a surface of the bath;

elevating the optical element above the surface of the bath except for the formation of a meniscus between said bath and said optical element;

holding the element at the desired elevation for a predetermined period of time sufficient to effect wicking of excess solution from the element to the bath through the meniscus;

removing the optical element from the bath thereby breaking the meniscus.

19. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein elevating the optical element above the surface of the bath comprises raising the optical element above the surface of the bath.

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20. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein elevating the optical element above the surface of the bath comprises lowering the bath below the optical element.

21. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein elevating the optical element above the surface of the bath comprises draining the bath, thereby lowering the surface of the bath.